

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05700 150835Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 EB-08
OMB-01 IGA-02 A-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 OES-07 /064 W
-----035931 150914Z /17

R 150731Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1097
INFO SECDEF/ISA
SECAF/IA-GC
CSAF/XOXXI/PRW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5700

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, AS
SUBJECT: SOLAR ELECTRO-OPTICAL NETWORK STATION AGREEMENT

REF: A) STATE 187178 (090209Z AUG 77), B) USAF 101400Z AUG 77 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED CHANGES TO SEON DRAFT AGREEMENT (REF A) WITH DFA, WHICH HAS TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED ALL EXCEPT THOSE REFERRING TO INCOME TAX. WE HOPE TO HAVE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK WHICH WILL GIVE US WHAT WE SEEK FOR US MILITARY AND USG CIVILIAN COMPONENT, AND PERHAPS A LITTLE BIT MORE THAN OUR AUTHORIZED FALL-BACK POSITION. DEPARTMENT AND USAF SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT GOA DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION IS PRESSING FOR AGREEMENT BY SEPT 1, BEYOND WHICH IT SAYS IT CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT MINIMUM SITE PREPARATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE ON-COMING CYCLONE SEASON. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS CONVEYED US CHANGES (REF A) TO DFA AND GONE OVER THE RATIONALE FOR EACH. DFA UNDERSTANDS US POSITION AND HAS TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED ALL REVISIONS EXCEPT
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THOSE DEALING WITH TAXATION.

3. DFA IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER COMPROMISE LANGUAGE ON TAXATION WHICH WOULD GIVE US SLIGHTLY MORE THAN OUR "FALL-BACK" POSITION (PARA 4 OF REF A). GOA TAKES OUR POINT ABOUT "NOT RE-NEGOTIATING THE SOFA" AND WE BELIEVE WHAT IT WILL DO IS SIMPLY INCORPORATE LANGUAGE VERBATIM

FROM THE SOFA INTO THE SEON AGREEMENT. GOA DOES NOT RPT NOT WISH TO SIMPLY REFER TO THE SOFA IN THE SEON AGREEMENT, BECAUSE ALTHOUGH WE INTERPRET THE SOFA DEFINITION "MEMBERS OF THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT" AS INCLUDING ANY USG CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE (IN THE SEON PROJECT, THIS WOULD REFER TO THE NOAA EMPLOYEES), THE GOA HAS AN EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATION OF THOSE COVERED, AND IT IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO EXTEND THE TAXATION PROVISIONS OF THE SOFA TO NON-DOD CIVILIANS.

4. REF B INFORMED US THAT USAF HAS MADE AVAILABLE AN INITIAL \$45,000 TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION BEFORE ONSET OF NEXT CYCLONE SEASON IN NOVEMBER/DECEMBER. EMBASSY WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IF WE ARE TO HAVE AN AGREEMENT IN TIME FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1 DEADLINE IMPOSED BY GOA DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION (AFTER WHICH THEY CAN NO LONGER GUARANTEE MEETING CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES BEFORE ONSET OF CYCLONE SEASON), WE WILL NEED REPLY FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT ACCEPTABILITY OF COMPROMISE LANGUAGE ON TAXATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER WE SEND IT IN. HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DO SO BY END OF THIS WEEK. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, AS
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